

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667  
(530) 621-5390  
(530) 622-3645 Fax

**JAMES S. MITRISIN**  
Clerk of the Board



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April 14, 2015

The Honorable Jay Obernolte  
State Capitol, Room 4116  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 203 (OBERNOLTE)

Dear Assemblyman Obernolte,

On behalf of El Dorado County, I am pleased to report that our board has decided to support AB 203, which would increase the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30 days from the date of assessment to 60 days.

Created by the Legislature and Governor as part of the 2011 Budget, the Fire Prevention Fee charges property owners \$152.33 for each habitable structure located in a State Responsibility Area (SRA), with a \$35 reduction if they live within the boundaries of a local fire protection district. About 700,000 rural Californians receive a yearly Fire Prevention Fee bill, due 30 days from the date on the notice.

Due to the rural nature of those being billed, many individuals do not receive their bills in a timely manner. Additionally, many of these individuals are on fixed incomes, making it nearly impossible for them to pay their Fire Prevention Fee by the 30-day deadline.

Increasing the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30 to 60 days will ensure greater compliance with the law by giving all owners of habitable structures in an SRA more time to receive their bills. AB 203 will also give those taxpayers on fixed incomes more time to adjust their budgets.

For these reasons, El Dorado County is supporting AB 203. However, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors encourages the assemblyman and the legislature to repeal the Fire Prevention Fee.

Sincerely,

Chairman, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc:  
Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors